

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00319 221616Z  
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----117464 230102Z /64

R 221603Z FEB 78  
FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7988  
INFO AMEMBASSY ROME  
AMEMBASSY BONN  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 00319

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PEPR, LY, MT  
SUBJECT: LIBYAN PRESSURES ON MALTA

REF: (A) ROME 3062 NOTAL, (B) STATE 43518, (C) BONN 2564

1. WE HAVE CONFIRMATION FROM BOTH GERMAN AND BRITISH SOURCES LOCALLY OF REPORT IN ROME'S REFTEL OF LIBYAN CUTOFF OF OIL SUPPLY TO MALTA. WHETHER THIS IS PERMANENT CUTOFF AND WHAT REAL LIBYAN INTENTIONS ARE IS NOT YET CLEAR TO US.

2. FRG AMBASSADOR HAUTHAL TOLD ME FEBRUARY 20 THAT MALTESE AMBASSADOR IN BONN HAD INFORMED FRG FOREIGN OFFICE, ON INSTRUCTION, THAT LIBYANS HAD TAKEN THIS ACTION. MALTESE AMBASSADOR WENT ON TO SAY THAT THIS LIBYAN ACTION WOULD NOT HAVE TAKEN PLACE HAD EUROPEANS NOT BEEN SO DELINQUENT IN RESPONDING TO MALTESE REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE. HAUTHAL SAID FRG HAS CONFIRMED THROUGH OTHER  
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SOURCES THAT SHIPMENTS TO REFINERY HAVE INDEED BEEN STOPPED BUT THEY ARE NOT ENTIRELY CERTAIN WHETHER THIS IS TEMPORARY OR NOT. HAUTHAL ALSO CONFIRMS THAT TO HIS KNOWLEDGE (FOLLOWING TELECON WITH BONN) NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN BY FRG TO APPROACH OTHER ALLIES OR US ON MALTESE PROBLEM.

3. BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER ASPIN ALSO HAS ABOVE INFORMATION. AS BACKGROUND TO THIS HE HAS IT FROM ITALIAN AMBASSADOR DA-RIN THAT DURING BRIEF JANUARY 30 VISIT TO VALLETTA BY LIBYAN FOREIGN SECRETARY TREIKI, LATTER REPORTEDLY READ THE RIOT ACT TO MINTOFF ABOUT DELAYS IN GETTING ON WITH SOME UNDERSTANDING ON MALTESE NEUTRALITY CONCEPT AND APPARENTLY THREATENING THAT IF SOME RESPONSE WAS NOT PROMPTLY FORTHCOMING FROM THE EUROPEANS, THE WHOLE DEAL WAS OFF AS FAR AS LIBYA WAS CONCERNED. SUBSEQUENTLY, AND APPARENTLY AT MINTOFF'S INITIATIVE, AN UNNAMED ITALIAN NOT NOW IN GOVERNMENT (WHOM ASPIN AND I SUSPECT MAY HAVE BEEN MANZINI) CAME TO MALTA FOR TALKS WITH MINTOFF FEBRUARY 10 DURING WHICH MINTOFF MADE URGENT PLEA TO ITALIANS THAT THEY AND FRENCH COME THROUGH WITH SOME NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE OFFER THAT HE COULD USE WITH LIBYANS. ASPIN UNDERSTANDS THAT MINTOFF IN THESE TALKS MADE NO REFERENCE TO ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PUTTING ENTIRE EMPHASIS ON NEUTRALITY GUARANTEE COMPONENT.

4. MEANWHILE AMBASSADOR DA-RIN LEFT FOR ROME FEBRUARY 19 ON CONSULTATIONS AT HIS REQUEST, PRESUMABLY TO PRESS FOR SOME ITALIAN RESPONSE TO HELP COPE WITH RISKS HE FORESEES IN LIBYAN PRESSURE TACTICS. ACCORDING TO DA-RIN'S DEPUTY, DA-RIN WILL PRESS FOR FOREIGN OFFICE APPROVAL OF PLAN TO HAVE GOI SUBMIT LEGISLATION TO ITALIAN PARLIAMENT  
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TO AUTHORIZE CONTINUATION OF ITALIAN PAYMENTS TO MALTA IN AMOUNT EQUIVALENT TO CURRENT ITALIAN BASE RENTAL CONTRIBUTION. THESE PAYMENTS WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON SOME KIND OF CONTRIBUTION BY OTHERS (HE WAS NOT CLEAR ON EXACTLY WHICH OTHER COUNTRIES) AND WOULD BE FOR THREE YEARS. DEPUTY ALSO MENTIONED THAT LIBYANS ADVISED GOM OF CUTOFF ABOUT THREE WEEKS AGO (WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN SHORTLY AFTER TREIKI VISIT).

5. COMMENT: WE WILL BE COMMENTING ON ALL THIS SEPARATELY, ALTHOUGH OUR IMMEDIATE INCLINATION IS TO KEEP OUR POWDER DRY. MEANWHILE WE WOULD WELCOME KNOWING WHETHER GENSCHER DISCUSSED MATTER WITH EITHER THE SECRETARY OR AMBASSADOR YOUNG DURING WHAT WE UNDERSTAND WAS TO BE A GENSCHER VISIT TO NEW YORK LAST WEEK. LAINGEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
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**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**TAGS:** PEPR, LY, MT  
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